

REMEDIAL SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION - EPA REGION 3

ORIGINAL

Site Name: New Jersey Fireworks Site

EPA ID#: MDSFN0305563

DSN: MD-501

Alias Site Names: Rt. 7 Chemical Dump

City: Elkton

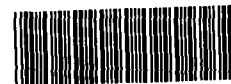
County: Cecil

State: MD

Refer to Report Dated: May 2005

Report Type: Expanded Site Investigation

Report Developed by: MDE



SDMS DocID

2055958

DECISION:

☐ 1. Further Remedial Site Assessment under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:

☐ 1a. Site does not qualify for further remedial site assessment under CERCLA
(No Further Remedial Action Planned - NFRAP)

☐ 1b. Site may qualify for further action, but is deferred to:

☐ RCRA
☐ NRC

☒ 2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA:

2a. (optional) Priority: ☒ Higher
Lower

2b. Activity Type: ☐ PA
☐ SI

☐ ESI
☐ HRS evaluation

☒ Other: Other Cleanup Activity - State Lead

DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:

This property has been used for the manufacture of fireworks since 1956. In April 2000, MDE conducted a Site Investigation of this property and found elevated levels of barium and other inorganics in the soils, but no perchlorate in the groundwater. At that time it was determined that EPA would take no further action because there was no evidence that the inorganics were moving offsite in the groundwater. The site was also archived at that time.

In May of 2003, MDE became involved in a developing investigation of perchlorate contamination in the Elkton municipal well field. Because perchlorates were used in the manufacture of fireworks, MDE decided to re-evaluate the New Jersey Fireworks (NJF) site and the adjacent Route 7 Chemical Dump (MD-75) which was an alleged disposal area for NJF.

In May 2004, MDE installed six monitoring wells in the vicinity of NJF and in August of 2004, performed an Expanded Site Investigation (ESI) under the Pre-remedial Cooperative Agreement with EPA. The results of the sampling showed elevated levels of perchlorates in the NJF production well, soil and groundwater near the sparkler building onsite and in a monitoring well approximately 1,000 feet east of the building. Perchlorate was also found in the surface water and sediment samples collected in an unnamed tributary of Mill Creek on the property. Elevated levels of barium were also found at the chemical dump.

MDE is currently in negotiation with the site owner to perform further investigation of the property. EPA now has new evidence which would make the site NPL-caliber due to the perchlorate contamination onsite and in the municipal well field. Therefore, EPA will "unarchive" the site, making it active, and will defer the site to the State, as outlined in the EPA/ MDE workshare agreement, as "Other Cleanup Activity - State Lead. Also, the Route 7 Chem Dump Site will be merged in CERCLIS with NJ Fireworks as the State will be addressing both areas.

Report Reviewed/Approved
and Site Decision Made By:

Lorie Baker
Site Assessment Manager

Signature:

Lori Baker

Date:
10/27/05